

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DOTE-00 SS-20 NSC-10

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /091 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7173

UNCLAS PARIS 5116

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ETRN, FR

SUBJECT : CIVAIR : AIRLINES MOVE TO CDG AIRPORT

1. RAUSCHENPLAT OF PANAM HAS JUST INFORMED US OF WORD RECEIVED FROM PANAM NEW YORK THAT MEADOWS HAS CONVENED MEETING TODAY WITH CARRIERS TO DISCUSS CDG PROBLEM. FOLLOWING ARE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS BEARING ON CONNECTING SERVICES PROBLEM.

2. SPATER OF TWA RECEIVED FEB .28 RESPONSE TO HIS LETTER TO GRIMAUD (PARIS 4777) IN WHICH LATTER INDICATES FURTHER IMPROVEMENT ARE BEING SOUGHT IN CONNECTING SERVICES OFFERED FROM CDG. FLIGHTS TO BORDEAUX AND TOULOUSE WILL BE DAILY EXCEPT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. NICE SERVICE WILL BEGIN MARCH 13. POSSIBILITY OF DELAYING DEPARTURE OF FIRST FLIGHT TO MARSEILLE IN ORDER AFFORD BETTER CONNECTION WITH INCOMING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS IS BEING STUDIED. SCHEDULING OF INCOMING FLIGHTS TO CDG FROM PROVINCES APPEARS SATISFACTORY, GRIMAUD ALLEGES. RE INADEQUATE SATURDAY-SUNDAY CONNECTION WITH PROVINCES OF WHICH TWA COMPLAINED SINCE

WEEKEND IS PERIOD OF PEAK INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, GRIMAUD SAID WEEKEND SERVICE POSED PROBLEMS FOR FRENCH CARRIERS SINCE THIS WAS SLACK PERIOD FOR NORMAL DOMESTIC AIR TRAVEL. GRIMAUD WROTE THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED RE-EXAMINE QUESTION, HOWEVER, IF TWA WAS ABLE PROVIDE HIM WITH STATISTICS ON VOLUME OF WEEKEND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS TO PROVINCIAL CITIES, ETC. SPATER
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INDICATED TO US THAT HE CONSIDERED GRIMAUD RESPONSE FORTHCOMING

AND IS HOPEFUL THAT CONNECTING SERVICES PROBLEM IS NOW ON WAY TO BEING RESOLVED. SPATER INDICATED THAT TWA IS ALSO BEGINNING TO RECEIVE SCHEDULING INFO IN DETAIL REQUIRED DIRECTLY FROM AIR FRANCE AND AIR INTER.

3. RAUSCHENPLAT RECEIVED AFTERNOON FEB. 28 TELEX FROM PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY ANNOUNCING CHANGES IN CDG SCHEDULES WHICH APPEAR TO REFLECT IMPROVEMENTS OF WHICH GRIMAUD WROTE IN HIS LETTER TO SPATER BUT WHICH ALSO REVEAL SOME CONTRADICTIONS. BORDEAUX-TOULOUSE FLIGHT WOULD DEPART CDG DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM. THIS WOULD PROVIDE GOOD CONNECTION FOR PANAM (THOUGH THREE HOUR CONNECTION WITH TWA'S 7:

30

AM ARRIVAL. OTHER CHANGES AFFECT AFTERNOON FLIGHTS WHICH DO NOT CONNECT ANYWAY WITH US CARRIERS. AIR FRANCE WILL OPERATE SPECIAL DAILY SERVICE WITH NICE COMMENCING MARCH 13, DEPARTING CDG AT 9:15 AM AND ANOTHER FLIGHT ARRIVING CDG AT 8:15 A. RAUSCHENPLAT FINDS CHANGES ARE NOT MUCH OF AN IMPROVEMENT AND HE CONTINUES TO BE ANNOYED BY WHAT HE SEES AS LAST-MINUTE, UNCOORDINATED EFFORTS TO PATCH TOGETHER SCHEDULES THAT ARE STILL LIKELY TO BE LESS THAN SATISFACTORY. EXTREME PRESSURE WHICH HE SUSPECTS GOF IS ALSO APPLYING TO FRENCH CARRIERS, WHOSE LOAD FACTORS WILL SUFFER IF THEIR CDG SERVICES ARE NOT CAREFULLY PROGRAMMED, MAY ALSO HAVE ADVERSE SPIN-OFF EFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN FRENCH AND US CARRIERS. IN HIS OWN REPLY TO LETTER HE RECEIVED EARLIER FROM GRIMAUD (PARIS 4669), RAUSCHENPLAT IS THUS SUGGESTING THAT GRIMAUD CONVENE MEETING UNDER HIS AUSPICES AT WHICH CARRIERS CONCERNED CAN ATTEMPT WORK OUT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONNECTING SERVICES. STONE

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